



COUNTY OF LAKE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 2011

THE OLD WEST LIVES ON IN LAKE COUNTY, CA **WILD WEST DAY & MIDDLETOWN DAYS**

LAKE COUNTY, CA — The Old West lives on in Lake County with the return of two annual western-themed events, Wild West Day in Upper Lake on June 4, and Middletown Days, in Middletown on June 17, 18, and 19, where families can enjoy a ranch rodeo, live music, parades, wagon rides, Old West skits, and much more.

WILD WEST DAY, UPPER LAKE – JUNE 4, 2011

The 18th-annual Wild West Day, held in downtown Upper Lake on June 4, is a Western-themed street festival and wearing costume is encouraged. With Old West skits, a parade, pancake breakfast, tri-tip barbecue, wagon rides, and country music, Wild West Day is a family-friendly event and all ages can enter contests for best beard, bonnet, and costume. Established in 1854, the town of Upper Lake once was a former stagecoach stop along the route from Sacramento to Mendocino and today features the restored Tallman Hotel, which is listed on the California Register of Historic Resources as a Point of Historical Interest, a re-created Blue Wing Saloon & Café next door, and a former livery that is now home to an antique plumbing business.

Also along Upper Lake's Main Street, visitors will find a local wine tasting bar, antiques, and collectibles from all over the world, local crafts, and fine art from throughout Northern California, as well as household necessities, pet care items, gifts, and home décor.

Wild West Day in Upper Lake is sponsored by the Upper Lake Community Council for community projects and the Northshore Fire Protection District. Admission is free. 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Main Street. (707)275-2000.

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MIDDLETOWN DAYS – JUNE 17, 18, AND 19, 2011

On June 17, 18 and 19, Middletown Days, a tradition for 50 years, returns for three days of family fun and features a ranch rodeo, live music, craft and food booths, children's activities, and more. Friday features a Team Roping in the evening and Saturday begins with a parade at 10:00 a.m. and ends with a dance at 8:30 p.m. Sunday features the gymkhana. Established in 1870, Middletown, midway between Lower Lake and Calistoga, is surrounded by outlying ranches, vineyards, and The Geysers, the largest geothermal energy source in the world. Middletown balances Old West charm and forward-thinking businesses with a vision for a sustainable world, including Harbin Hot Springs, one of the oldest operating hot springs resorts in California, Hardester's Market, Boar's Breath Restaurant, and more.

Middletown Days is held at Middletown Central Park, 15299 Central Park Road. Admission is free; small fee for dance on Saturday night. Team Roping on Friday begins at 5:00 p.m. Parade on Saturday begins at 10:00 a.m., and gymkhana at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday. (707) 994-1954.

For information about guided trail rides, the 82nd-annual Lake County Rodeo on July 8 and 9, and other equestrian activities, contact the Lake County Visitor Information Center at (800) 525-3743 or www.lakecounty.com

Located in beautiful Northern California, Lake County is just two hours by car from the San Francisco Bay Area, the Sacramento Valley, and the Pacific Coast. Lake County is home to Clear Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake in California and possibly the oldest lake on the continent. Visitors to Lake County experience the state's cleanest air basin, spectacular scenic beauty, fine wines, and unsurpassed recreational opportunities – from hiking, biking, golf, and off-road adventures to boating, fishing, kayaking, birding, and even rockhounding. The local area code is 707. For visitor information, contact the Lake County Visitor Information Center at (800) 525-3743 or www.lakecounty.com.

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